



The Seattle Public Library's **2023 Impact at a Glance**

293,000 active patrons, a record high	
13.4 million total checkouts	7.4 million digital checkouts 6 million physical checkouts
340,000 public computer sessions	
3,500 programs with 103,000 attendance	
90+ more weekly open hours than in 2019	
1,100 K-12 attendees of after-school Homework Help	
234,000 reference questions answered	
580 one-on-one business and legal consults	

• **3,300** tax returns filed • **24,000** Museum Pass reservations • **147,000** checkouts of Peak Picks books • **15%** increase in digital book checkouts • **8th** in the world for digital book loans • **750+** early learning programs • **6,500** Summer of Learning participants • **950** bus ticket booklets distributed **For more information, go to www.spl.org/Impact**



Four years of fine-free borrowing

In January 2020, the Library eliminated overdue fines forever. Funded by the 2019 Library Levy, this change immediately restored Library access for nearly 18,000 patrons. Four years later, the impact continues. The percentage of patrons with suspended Library accounts has been cut by half and return rates haven't been affected.

"[No overdue fines] is like winning the lottery! This sounds like a small thing, but it is a BIG thing."

– Library patron



The magic of early learning

With the return of in-person story time in 2023, children once again gathered with caregivers and librarians across the city to listen to stories, sing, move and build literacy. We also worked with community partners to restart in-person Kaleidoscope Play and Learn, a neighborhood-based play group for children from birth through age 5 with a focus on underserved communities.

"Partnering with the Library allows us to introduce more resources for families."

– Xiomara Melgar, South Park Branch
Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Facilitator



Connections, care & coffee

The Library's new Social Services Team is guided by trauma-informed care principles and the belief that you can't enjoy full access to library services if basic needs aren't met. In 2023, they provided 930 referrals to resources, as well as a regular "Coffee and Conversations" gathering at the Central Library, offering a chance to talk and a welcoming vibe.

"You have helped me so much. This situation is so difficult, and it is so hard to find anyone who cares."

– Patron who worked with the Social Services team



Expanding the freedom to read

To fight censorship and protect the freedom to read, the Library launched a Books Unbanned program for teens and young adults, funded by The Seattle Public Library Foundation. More than 7,000 young people across the country signed up for a Books Unbanned card, which offers free access to our collection of e-books and e-audiobooks.

"I want to actively engage with the world and new ideas."

– Books Unbanned cardholder,
age 17, North Carolina